



Introduced Version

**HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th anniversary of Virgil I. (Gus) Grissom's Gemini 3 Flight.

Koch

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th anniversary of Virgil I. (Gus) Grissom's Gemini 3 Flight.

Whereas, Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom was born April 3, 1926, in Mitchell, Indiana;

Whereas, Gus Grissom graduated from Mitchell High School and received a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from Purdue University;

Whereas, Gus Grissom received his pilot wings in March 1951 and flew 100 combat missions in Korea in F-86s with the 334th Fighter Interceptor Squadron and achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel in the United States Air Force;

Whereas, Gus Grissom, upon returning home from combat in 1952, became a jet instructor at Bryan, Texas, in August 1955, entered the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio to study aeronautical engineering, attended the Test Pilot School at Edwards Air Force Base in California in October 1956, and returned to Wright-Patterson in May 1957 as a test pilot assigned to the fighter branch;

Whereas, In April 1959, Gus Grissom was selected by the newly formed National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) as one of the seven original Mercury astronauts;

Whereas, Gus Grissom piloted the Liberty Bell 7 spacecraft



on July 21, 1961, on the second and final suborbital Mercury test flight, which lasted 15 minutes and 37 seconds, attained an altitude of 118 statute miles, and traveled 302 miles downrange from the launch pad at Cape Canaveral;

Whereas, At the time of the Liberty Bell 7 flight, only two other humans had gone into space — Russian Yuri Gagarin and American Alan Shepard;

Whereas, On March 23, 1965, Gus Grissom served as command pilot on the first manned Gemini flight, Gemini 3, a three-orbit mission during which the crew accomplished the first orbital trajectory modifications and the first lifting reentry of a manned spacecraft, making him the first man to pilot a craft in space, demonstrating man's ability to navigate outer space;

Whereas, After his Gemini flight, Gus Grissom served as backup command pilot for Gemini 6 and was named to serve as command pilot for the Apollo 1 mission, the first manned mission of the Apollo lunar landing program;

Whereas, Gus Grissom, Ed White, and Roger Chaffee died tragically on January 27, 1967, in the Apollo spacecraft flash fire during a launch pad test at Cape Kennedy in Florida; and

Whereas, For his bravery and dedication to duty and his country, Gus Grissom was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with cluster for his Korean service, two NASA Distinguished Service medals and the NASA Exceptional Service Medal, and the Air Force Command Astronaut Wings, and was posthumously awarded the Congressional Space Medal of Honor: Therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives
of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,
the Senate concurring:*

- 1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly remembers Virgil
- 2 I. (Gus) Grissom on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Gemini
- 3 3 flight and recognizes that he was truly a great American hero who
- 4 represented the state of Indiana with integrity, grace, and honor.
- 5 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of



- 1 Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to the family of
- 2 Virgil I. (Gus) Grissom.

